

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITRY 4631

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USLO PEKING

CONFIDENTIAL HONG KONG 4216

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, KN, CB

SUBJECT: SINO-KOREAN SOLIDARITY FOR SIHANOUK?

AS THE KIM IL SUNG VISIT TO PEKING UNFOLDS, IT WILL BE
INTERESTING TO WATCH HOW SIHANOUK IS TREATED. HIS CHINESE
HOSTS AND LONG TIME SUPPORTERS HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY HERE TO
GIVE HIM A VICTORY SALUTE IN WHICH THE NORTH KOREANS COULD
ALSO SHOW THEIR SUPPORT FOR THE PRINCE'S FUTURE ROLE IN
CAMBODIAN AFFAIRS. IT MAY BE A COINCIDENCE, BUT WE CANNOT
RULE OUT AT THIS POINT THAT THE TIMING OF KIM'S VISIT WAS
WITH THE IMMINENT FALL OF PHNOM PENH IN MIND AND THE OB-
JECTIVE OF BOOSTING SIHANOUK'S STOCK IN THE ARRANGEMENT FOR
A NEW REGIME. A GREAT SHOW OF NORTH KOREAN-CHINESE SOLIDARITY
BEHIND SIHANOUK COULD ALSO FIT WITH THE CURRENT SENSE OF STRAIN
OR UNCERTAINTY IN PEKING-HANOI RELATIONS. ON THE OTHER HAND,
IF THE CHINESE AND KOREANS PASS UP THIS OPPORTUNITY TO
GIVE SIHANOUK A PARTICULARLY ROUSING CHEER, THEN IT
COULD INDICATE THEY THINK THE GAME IS NOT WORTH THE
CANDLE AND THAT SIHANOUK IS NOT PROMOTABLE AS A MAJOR
FACTOR ON THE CAMBODIAN SCENE UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES.
CROSS

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NNN

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